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MICHIGAN STATE HOUSING DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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State Officials to Recognize Historic Rehabilitation
of Point Betsie Lighthouse

LANSING – State Historic Preservation Officer Brian Conway announced that he and other officials will honor the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse and its partners with a Governor's Award for Historic Preservation on Monday, June 7, at the light station. Point Betsie was one of only six statewide awards that were announced at a ceremony in the state capitol on May 5.

"The Friends of Point Betsie deserve our congratulations and our appreciation for taking the lead in preserving one of Michigan's most important light stations," stated Conway. "People identify lighthouses with the Great Lakes State and come here to see them. Lighthouses are an important tourist attraction. Thanks to the people at Point Betsie and the stewards of numerous other lighthouses throughout Michigan, the public is able to visit many of these wonderful structures and not only appreciate their beauty, but learn about the important role they played in Michigan history."

The Governor's Award for Historic Preservation honors the Friends of Point Betsie Lighthouse, Amy Ferris, Benzie County Commissioner Mary Pitcher, Charles J. Clarke, Mihm Enterprises, Inc., Quinn Evans Architects, and U.P. Engineers & Architects, Inc. Following the event, State Historic Preservation Office architect Bryan Lijewski will conduct the final inspection on the rehabilitation.

Since 2000 the Friends of Point Betsie has raised more than \$1 million in grants and private donations, including a \$225,000 federal Save America's Treasures grant and \$431,550 from the Clean Michigan Initiative fund. The State Historic Preservation Office awarded \$152,400 in Michigan Lighthouse Assistance grants, which are funded through the sale of the "Save Our Lights" license plates.

The public is invited to attend the ceremony, which will be held at 2:00 p.m., Monday, June 7, at the lighthouse. Point Betsie Light Station is in west Benzie County, just south of the Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore, and about five miles north of the blinking traffic light in Frankfort, off route M-22 (also called Pilgrim Highway). Watch for Point Betsie Road headed west.

The State Historic Preservation Office is part of the Michigan State Housing Development Authority. The Michigan State Housing Development Authority is dedicated to building a thriving and vibrant future for Michigan. MSHDA provides tools and resources to improve people's lives through programs across the state. These programs assist with housing, build strong neighborhoods, and help create places where people want to live and work. MSHDA's programs work in four areas: affordable rental housing; supporting homeownership; ending homelessness; and creating vibrant cities and neighborhoods. For further information on this or other MSHDA programs, go to www.michigan.gov/mshda.*

*MSHDA's loan and operating expenses are financed through the sale of tax-exempt and taxable bonds as well as notes to private investors, not from state tax revenues. Proceeds are loaned at below-market interest rates to developers of rental housing, and help fund mortgages and home improvement loans. MSHDA also administers several federal housing programs.

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